IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2, 3, and 6-13, AMEND claim 1, and ADD new claims 14 and 15 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A rocker arm capable of being driven by a cam for selectively opening and closing a valve mounted on a cylinder head of a combustion engine, which rocker arm comprises:

a generally elongated arm body having first and second ends opposite to each other and prepared by bending a single plate material to represent a generally inverted U-shaped section including opposite side walls and a connecting wall bridging between the opposite side walls, an end portion of the connecting wall adjacent the second end of the arm body being formed with an internally helically threaded hole for threadingly receiving therein an externally helically threaded pivot member;

a cam follower roller rotatably mounted on a portion of the arm body generally intermediate between the first and second ends thereof for engagement with the cam; and

a valve drive element mounted on the first end of the arm body for driving the valve;

wherein an outer chamfered corner delimited between an outer surface of the connecting wall and an outer surface of each of the opposite side walls and formed by bending is deformed to represent a plastically deformed portion so formed by means of a plastic deformation technique that the outer chamfered corner represents a small radius of curvature, and

the radius of curvature of the outer chamfered corner delimited between the outer surface of the connecting wall and the outer surface of each of the opposite side walls is smaller than 70% of a wall thickness of the arm body.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The rocker arm as claimed in Claim 1, wherein respective portions of inner surfaces of the opposite side walls adjacent the internally helically threaded hole are formed with corresponding helical threads and wherein the helical threads occupy respective parts of a cylindrical extension of the internally helically threaded hole for threadingly receiving the externally helically threaded pivot member which has passed through the internally helically threaded hole.

5. (Original) The rocker arm as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a lock nut fastened to the externally helically threaded pivot member then threadingly engaged in the internally helically threaded hole in the connecting wall and wherein an outer flat surface area of the connecting wall delimited between the plastically deformed portions, which is adjacent the internally helically threaded hole, has a width about equal to an outer diameter of the lock nut.

6-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A method of manufacturing a rocker arm to open and close a valve mounted on a cylinder head of a combustion engine, the method comprising the operations:

bending a single plate material to represent a generally inverted U-shaped section including opposite side walls, and a connecting wall bridging between the opposite side walls; and

plastically deforming outer chamfered corners delimited between an outer surface of the connecting wall and an outer surface of each of the opposite side walls, such that respective outer chamfered corners represent a smaller radius of curvature than approximately 70% of a wall thickness of the inverted U-shaped section.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the plastically deforming operation comprises applying a pressure to end faces of the side walls.